

B³ 24(New). Method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the matrix or membrane material is responsive to temperature and the change in the value of temperature results from external heating.

25(New). A method as claimed in claim 24 wherein said external heating is carried out using focused ultrasound.

Sub D⁴ 26(New). A method as claimed in claim 24 wherein the matrix or membrane material comprises a lipid or a lipid mixture having a T_c value between 35 and 80°C.

27(New). A method as claimed in claim 25 wherein the matrix or membrane material comprises a lipid or a lipid mixture having a T_c value between 35 and 80°C.

28(New). A method as claimed in claim 26 wherein the change in the value of said parameter results from external heating, the external heating being carried out using focused ultrasound.

29(New). A method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the change in the value of said parameter results from external heating, the external heating being carried out using focused ultrasound.

30(New). A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the contrast efficacy is altered by interaction between the contrast generating species and the environment in the part of the animate human or non-human animal body where the matrix or membrane material has responded to a change in the value of the physiological parameter.

Sub D⁵ 31(New). A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the physiological parameter is temperature and wherein the change in the value of said parameter is related to cancer, cardiovascular disease or inflammation or results from external heating in the animate human or non-human animal body.

Sub D5
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32(New). A method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the physiological parameter is pH and wherein the change in the value of said parameter is caused by cancer, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, inflammations or autoimmune diseases.

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33(New). A method as claimed in claim 32 wherein in addition to the generation of a signal indicative of the value or variation of a pre-determined physiological parameter in a part of the animate human or non-human animal body in which the contrast generating species is present, an anatomical image of the same part of the animate human or non-human animal body is generated.

34(New). A method as claimed in claim 33 wherein no contrast agent is used to generate the anatomical image.

35(New). A method as claimed in claim 33 wherein a contrast agent is used in the generation of the anatomical image.

36(New). A method as claimed in claim 30 wherein the same contrast agent is used to generate a signal relating to the pre-selected physiological parameter and the anatomical image.

Sub D6

37(New). A contrast medium for imaging of a physiological parameter, said medium comprising a particulate material the particles whereof comprise a matrix or membrane material and at least one contrast generating species, said matrix or membrane material being responsive to a physiological parameter to cause the contrast efficacy of said contrast generating species to vary in response to said parameter.

38(New). A method of imaging of an animate human or non-human animal body, which method comprises:

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administering parenterally to said body at least one contrast generating species the contrast efficacy whereof is responsive to a change in value of a pre-selected physiological parameter;

generating image data of at least part of said body in which said species is present; and

generating therefrom a signal indicative of the value or variation of said parameter in said part of said body and also generating an anatomical image of the same part of the animal body.
